

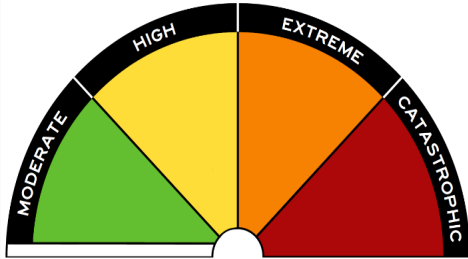


Hydroponic Farmers Federation Newsletter

A0033906W

Volume 7, Issue 1

March 2023



MODERATE

Plan and prepare

HIGH

Be ready to act

EXTREME

Take action now to
protect life and property

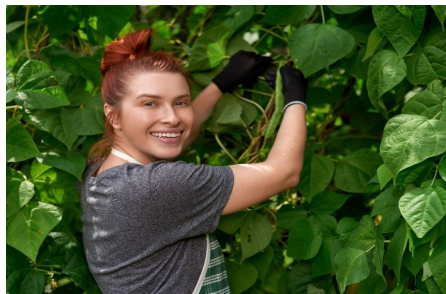
CATASTROPHIC

For your survival, leave
bushfire risk areas



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The Secretary



Well a bit belated, but Happy New Year everyone! And let's hope this one sees us finally waving goodbye to all the issues associated with Covid!

On the good news front it does seem that at last we are seeing the return of backpackers to ease the labour shortage but there would still seem a way to go until we are back at pre pandemic levels. And the ongoing challenge of getting new entrants into the industry is one that has taken up my time over the past few months. There are a number of great initiatives where school based programs are now actively looking to promote horticulture as a viable career option - who would have thought it! This is really good to see as Horticulture has all to often been the poor relation when it comes to chosen careers. But now hands on programs such as traineeships and even the use of virtual reality as a demonstration tool are encouraging young people into a wide range of horticultural careers. The committee has been busy and John's report details

most of that, but needless to say we are looking well ahead for the coming year and the year after. However, we have our AGM coming up and the boss is really looking to get some new members on the committee as part of the overall succession plan. From my point of view it would be good to have a 'Secretary in training' so that I can pass over the reigns at some stage! So if you feel being involved at my level could be for you - feel free to give me a call. Coming up in the middle of the year is the PCA Conference in Brisbane. Yes that is a bit further to travel than the Atura at Dandenong - home of our last conference!, but the PCA are keen to get as many growers to the conference as possible and are subsidising up to 150 free grower trade show passes. So if you are considering attending the conference my tip is to get in quick! Details should be appearing on the PCA website. I will be there but may look a little jaded on the first day as I fly into Melbourne on the Saturday night from a trip to Europe and then head to Brisbane on the following Sunday - so give me a nudge if I start to doze off! Otherwise I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our AGM. Regards **TB**

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The President



Hi everyone, Well there is plenty going on in HFF land and the committee have been going flat out on a number of projects. Firstly we have our AGM scheduled for the 30th of March at Katunga Fresh - by kind permission of Peter van den Goor - Thanks you Peter. The day is planned for a trip around the farm first which promises to be really interesting. This will lead onto lunch and then the AGM. Now you will probably get ear ache from me going on about this, but we really need to look at getting some new blood onto the organising committee. There are a number of us who are approaching the magical retirement age (not that I suspect we will all give up our jobs overnight) but none of us are getting any younger! The HFF has grown over the years from the original aim of being a 'self help' group into the great organisation that we have today. However we need to look at new ideas and direction, and we need new committee members to do this. And with the AGM just around the corner here is the ideal opportunity for you to nominate as a committee member! But on a more serious note, we really would love to see some new members joining us so that ultimately we can ensure the longevity of the organisation. I really don't want to get to the point where we have to conduct a séance to talk to all the committee! So please have a serious thought about nominating for a committee position. Now we have only just had our last conference but the other major project the committee have been working on is for the planning for HFF Conference 2024. There was a lot of great feedback from our last conference so we have taken that on board and will be making sure we incorporate all the good ideas into HFF 2024. We have included a further article in the newsletter outlining what we have been doing, but as soon as we have the venue confirmed we will be setting a launch event date - as we did at the Atura. So once that is confirmed, get the dates in the diary! On another note, I have also been in discussion with PCA Chair Matt Plunkett, who is driving a project to get changes made to the Buildings code in relation to fire safety regulations in greenhouse construction. This is an area that has cost growers a lot of money in the past so hopefully a joint effort between PCA and HFF can drive some change on this front. My thanks to Matt for leading the charge on this one. Finally I have to once again acknowledge the efforts that all of the committee members make behind the scenes. Tony B continues to produce a great newsletter - thank you TB, and Ian, Martin, Tony S and Simon have been working very hard on a number of issues associated with the 2024 conference. Thank you all. And of course Michael has also been busy on a range of tasks - thank you Michael. But as I mentioned before, we would love to get some new committee members on board (told you I'd give you ear ache on this!) so please consider nominating for a committee position at the AGM. Thanks everyone and see you at the AGM! **Regards, John**

Membership

As we enter our 'non conference' year we usually see our membership numbers fall away, but I'm pleased to report that the numbers are holding steady at this point in time, which is great. But we are always keen to welcome new members to the HFF, and bringing a guest along to a grower meeting is an ideal way to increase the numbers. So if you have a neighbour or friend who you think would be interested in joining HFF please consider bringing them to the Grower Day on the 30th of March to see what it is all about. Katunga Fresh is a great site to visit and Peter is always happy to show what he's been up to, so the day promises to be really interesting for existing and potential members. HFF membership also gives you a discounted rate for the PCA conference so there are further benefits to be realised in being an HFF member. Look forward to seeing you all at the AGM. **Ian**



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Greenhouses for Sale

We have been made aware of 2 x 500 square metre David Gill greenhouses for sale. The greenhouses have been recently dismantled but are fully bundled and ready to erect. Structure details include Single open gull wings, 5 metres to the gutter, 7.5 metres high and all fixtures, motors etc. For further details please contact James Dickson on jamesdickson1@live.com



Fernland



Contact Zak Iqbal on **0455 415 504**
or zak.i@fernland.com.au
Contact Head Office on **1800 672 794**
or sales@fernland.com.au

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- ▶ Substrates
- ▶ Stakes
- ▶ Coir Pot Tops
- ▶ Shadecloth
- ▶ Coir Discs & Pot Tops
- ▶ Plant Bags
- ▶ Weedmat
- ▶ Shadecloth
- ▶ Bird Netting
- ▶ Hold Down Pins
- ▶ Fixing Channel
- ▶ Wiggle Wire
- ▶ Plastics



Queensland Fruit Fly Threat

Of high concern to growers in the Yarra Valley is the fact that Queensland Fruit Fly has recently been detected in the Victorian suburb of Silvan (Mt. Evelyn side) in a RapidAIM trap over the weekend of the 12th Feb 2023. Growers in the immediate vicinity have been notified of this threat.



Description of Adult. The adult is wasp-like, red-brown with yellow marks, and about 8mm long. Unlike cucumber fruit fly there is no central yellow mark down the length of the dorsal surface of the thorax between the wings. Fruit flies hold their wings outstretched in a horizontal position when walking. They flick them in a characteristic manner.

Immature Stages. The female pierces (stings) the maturing fruit and lays a clutch of white, banana-shaped eggs just below the surface. Hatching takes place after 2 to 3 days and the resulting larvae are white carrot-shaped maggots (about 7mm long when mature) that tunnel in the flesh. They carry bacteria that aid in fruit breakdown. The mature larvae can 'jump' by curling into a 'U'-shape and then rapidly straightening.

Life history. Larvae mature in 7–10 days in summer and emerge from the fruit to pupate in the soil. The pupal stage lasts about 10 days. The life cycle takes about 2.5 weeks during summer. The adult flies congregate on foliage and fruit to feed on bacterial colonies and later to mate. These bacterial colonies are more plentiful under humid conditions.

Host Range. Queensland fruit fly infests both indigenous and introduced fruits, but most importantly we can see commercial varieties of crops being susceptible including apple, cherries, citrus, pear, peach, plum, but also tomato and capsicum.

Bronwyn Koll, who is the Agribusiness Yarra Valley Queensland Fruit Fly Regional Co-ordinator commented “That whilst we have had a late start to “the season” it is still a high risk season for QFF. In the early days of February we experienced 100% humidity, and a lead up of suitable temperature for QFF activity. Given last season’s pressure and the pressure in suburban areas of Melbourne, QFF still remains a risk to the Yarra Valley producers (and home gardeners)”.

Control of this pest is based on a program of monitoring with traps as well as implementing control measures

It is important to act swiftly. Preventing or treating for QFF at the early stage can significantly disrupt and prevent QFF populations increasing and becoming a threat to the crop.

How does a trap work?

- The trap contains a cotton wick impregnated with a powerful male sex – attractant (cue lure) and an insecticide
- Male Queensland fruit flies are attracted from distances of up to 400 meters and collect in the trap where they can be counted

How many traps do I need?

- 1 trap per 5-10 ha (minimum 3 traps per farm) as well.



Queensland Fruit Fly Threat

How to deploy the Fruit Fly Trap

- Place traps in areas where fruit fly is likely to be active (e.g. along – borders and rivers/waterways)
- Hang at head height in host tree/crop shaded from direct sunlight – empty traps and record fly catches at least weekly
- Replace pheromone wick every three months Replacement Q Fly Wicks are available from Bugs for Bugs

How to interpret your trap counts.

Male traps are a useful tool for monitoring population trends but trap counts must be interpreted carefully. It is important to note that:

- These traps only catch male fruit flies
- Trap counts are not a good indication of potential for fruit fly damage in the crop (your monitoring program should include regular crop – inspections, looking for adult flies and evidence of stinging)
- Fruit fly traps do not control fruit fly
- MAT cups compete with male fruit fly traps, affecting the results of traps set up for the purpose of monitoring.

It is important to take this into account when using male trap counts to assess fruit fly activity. We suggest that you do not place too much emphasis on the actual numbers of fruit fly caught in traps but rather focus on population trends

Male Annihilation technique - MAT Cups.

- A targeted attract and kill strategy for male Queensland fruit flies
- MAT cups contain both cue lure (a powerful male sex attractant) and maldison as a toxicant
- Male Queensland fruit flies are attracted to the cups and die as result of ingesting the toxicant
- MAT cups are applied three times per year to achieve area-wide suppression of male flies
- MAT cups are most effective when used over large areas or entire cropping regions
- Apply at the rate of 10 – 20 MAT cups per hectare depending on crop sensitivity and local fruit fly pressure
- Apply new cups three times per year (in Spring, Summer and Autumn)
- Leave each MAT cup in the field for a full 12 months



Protein baits. Protein baits consist of a liquid protein that is then mixed with a toxicant. They must be applied regularly to the foliage or trunk of the host plants. Baits are susceptible to weathering and must be applied more frequently if sighted outside during periods of high rainfall. Bait applications must commence before fruit fly establishes in the crop and regular treatments are essential for this method to succeed. Increased baiting frequency may be necessary during periods of high pressure from fruit fly. Thickeners can improve the life and efficacy of protein baits and are recommended during periods of high pressure.

Cover sprays can be utilised for control of this pest to kill eggs and young larvae in fruit, but current registered chemicals for this type of application can be toxic to beneficial insects and IPM programs.

For further details please feel free to contact Bronwyn Koll on 0490 381 999 or email via gff@agribusiness-yarravalley.com or Bugs For Bugs at <https://bugsforbugs.com.au/contact/>



HFF Grower Meeting and AGM



Hydroponic Farmers Federation Grower Meeting and AGM Thursday 30th March 1055 Numurkah Rd, Katunga, VIC 3640



Our next Grower meeting and farm tour will be kindly hosted by Katunga Fresh at Katunga. Join us (HFF) in an opportunity to see and talk with other Growers/Wholesales/Trade at this premier industry production facility.

Given the quality nature of this facility, this grower day is likely to be a very popular event, so we would ask that you indicate your intention to attend via the RSVP as soon as possible so that we can cater accordingly.

After the farm tour we will be having lunch, which will be followed by the AGM.

Please note: Non member cost - \$50.00

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

- 09:30 am Registration tea/coffee
- 10:00 am Welcome and introduction by the HFF President—John Elford
- 10:15 am Farm Tour, visit to production and packing area
- 12.00 pm Networking / Lunch provided by Katunga Fresh / Perfection Fresh
- 13:10 pm Industry update from Perfection Fresh - Joseph Cartisano - Category manager
- 13:30 pm HFF AGM—Including President’s report, Treasurers report, Membership report
Voting for vacant positions
- 14:00 pm HFF wrap up - including briefing on forthcoming 2024 Conference
- 14:15 pm PCA Update
- 14:30 pm Any other business
- 14:45 pm Meeting closes

FOR CATERING PURPOSES PLEASE RSVP BY FRIDAY 24TH MARCH

PLEASE EMAIL RSVP TO John Elford—johnelford@bigpond.com.au

NAME/S.....

NAME OF BUSINESS/COMPANY.....

PHONE NUMBER/Email address.....



HFF Grower Meeting and AGM



Katunga Fresh are located at 1055 Numurkah Rd, Katunga, VIC 3640



**Hydroponic Farmers Federation
 Grower Meeting and AGM
 Thursday 30th March 2023
 PROXY VOTING FORM**

Dear Sir/Madam

I hereby nominate

Mr/Mrs/Ms _____

of _____

to vote on behalf of

During the Hydroponic Farmers Federation AGM meeting to be held on Thursday the 30th of March, 2023

NAME IN BLOCK LETTERS

SIGNATURE _____

TITLE _____

COMPANY _____

PCA 2023 Conference



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2023
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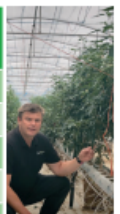
Wuxal Calcium Xtra Uptake can be applied in protected cropping situations at the following rates:



Calcium

CROP	RATE PER 100 L	NUMBER AND TIMING OF APPLICATION
Cucumbers	300-500 mL	Repeated applications at 7-10 day intervals starting about 10 days after fruit set to 2 weeks prior to harvest
Brussels Sprouts Cauliflower Celery Chicory Chinese Cabbage Endive Head Lettuce	300-500 mL	Weekly applications Cauliflower, Chinese Cabbage & Head lettuce: Start before head formation Celery: Start about 5-7 weeks before harvest, properly wetting the heart of the plant Endive: Start about 10-14 days after planting
Tomatoes / Peppers	100-400 mL	Repeated applications at 7-10 day intervals starting about 10 days after fruit set

Nutrient	Total Product Basis (% w/v)	Nutrient	Total Product Basis (% w/v)
Nitrogen (N)	16	Copper (Cu)	0.064
Calcium (Ca)	17.2	Iron (Fe)	0.08
Magnesium (Mg)	1.8	Manganese (Mn)	0.16
Boron (B)	0.08	Molybdenum (Mo)	0.0016
		Zinc (Zn)	0.032



Brad Johnson

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Horticultural Traineeship Program

Skillinvest, one of Victoria's leading employment and training providers, is currently piloting a new Horticulture Traineeship Program in Gippsland.

The program, delivered with the support of Agriculture Victoria, will support eligible jobseekers into paid employment in the horticulture sector, with successful jobseekers having the opportunity to complete a Certificate III in Production Horticulture or Horticulture.



Anita Peters, Skillinvest's Metro Operations Manager, said candidates will have the opportunity to undertake a traineeship full-time or part-time with participating employers.

"Throughout the duration of the training both trainees and employers will be supported by our employment consultants as their mentor," she said.

Ms Peters said the program would help employers in the horticulture industry to find the staff they need.

"Our team at Skillinvest will recruit your new team member and remain their legal employer. As a host employer all you need to do is provide the day-to-day work, supervision and facilitate the on-the-job training.

"We will recruit the trainee that best matches the role, enrol them into the relevant RTO or TAFE course, handle any Workcover claims, pay trainee wages, provide PPE, monitor progress both on and off the job, and regularly visit to check in."

Employers wanting to learn more or participate in the program, are more than welcome to contact Anita Peters at Skillinvest on 1300 135 008 or email anita.peters@skillinvest.com.au

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General Manager
Operations Green Camel

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HFF Conference 2024

If you cast your minds back to mid July, when we finally managed to get our conference running after a variety of Covid delays - you will recall that it was a really good event. The HFF conference is all about networking and knowledge sharing, with a pretty liberal sprinkling of socialising and liquid refreshment! So can we do better? Well we believe we can. The HFF Committee have been actively visiting prospective sites and are on the verge of securing a venue. So where's the site?

Ah - that would be telling! But what we can say is that the venue will be located in an outer city location making access easy for all delegates. We have also reviewed the feedback from the last conference and the Mid July timing of the event (avoiding school holidays) is a date we are aiming at. Also, the inclusion of the conference dinner and after party are high on the agenda again. And there are some other surprises in store - but more on those down the track. But on a serious note we are really keen to secure conference sponsors so if you feel your organisation would be interested in becoming an individual or joint naming right sponsor, please talk to the committee ASAP. So look out for further news, this is going to be big!!

Prepare to be amazed.

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11/20/2017

TOM-System is the new, quick, and easy working method for trellising greenhouse plants such as tomatoes, cucumbers, and capsicums/peppers to string lines. The AgriFast V-46 ring clips are fastened using the Model TT235 electronic application tool. These metal clips support similar or heavier loads than other tying methods, do not hinder plant growth and support formation of the stem. The Model TT235 allows the user to apply ring clips to string line up to 50% faster than standard clipping methods and requires no specialised training. The clips are designed to rust away after composting. The period depends on the conditions but there have been some reports here in Australia of clips disappearing after only 7 months

What are the benefits of TOM System?

- Reduces labour costs by 40% or more
- Reduces damage to the plant caused using other trellising methods
- User friendly with no specialised training required
- Adjustable tension to suit different string thickness
- Compatible with eco-string
- Clip closure between 22mm and 23mm
- TOM-System can hold plants more than 8kg
- Reduces transport costs compared to other clips
- Reduced fatigue on the operator
- Battery will last up to 2 days



For a demonstration or quotation, feel free to contact

Michael Tran at EE Muirs - 0418 899 586

Priva and Signify expand training joint training opportunities

Well-trained staff is essential for effective business operations. So in addition to personal support, Priva also offers its customers the opportunity to take training courses via the digital horticulture learning platform: Priva Academy. According to Priva's Rob Schoones: "In order to be able to make the right decisions, horticultural employees need to know not only about Priva, but also about other suppliers. So the Priva Academy team would like to talk to these suppliers, to expand the expertise that can be shared with the customers we have in common."



Signify, market leader in LED solutions for horticulture, knows better than anyone what light means for a plant: what light recipe is needed and when, and how to translate that into lighting solutions. By bringing this knowledge to Priva Academy, they are enabling customers to learn more about the use and benefits of LED lighting. "With the increasing demand for fresh vegetables all year round, you can't avoid artificially lighting your crop in order to keep production going throughout the year,"



Koos de Wit says in the first training module. "There are reasons to use LED lighting, as well as a few reasons not to." Access to the Priva Academy is open to potential 'students' who have a business email address, which in turn proves they are involved in the industry. The training is available in Priva's native Dutch language as well as English. For further details please feel free to email Priva's Rob Schoones at academy@priva.com

HFF Committee Membership

Our AGM is coming up and we are really keen to look at a serious succession plan in terms of Committee Members. None of the current members are getting any younger (and if the secretary doesn't make it running in the R4TK event we will be one down immediately!) - sorry for the grim prediction TB!! So we really need to start looking at attracting new committee members to take the organisation into the future. So what's the commitment? Well we highlighted this in the last newsletter, but let me refresh your memory! Basically a zoom meeting once a month to deal with the behind the scenes management of the organisation (which also will guarantee you a good laugh with the rest of the team!) and lending a hand at the practical field days and the conference. You will also get the opportunity to have direct input into the overall direction that the organisation is taking for the future. So don't delay - nominate today and we can vote for you at the AGM! **John Elford**



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AgNova Technologies



Brad Johnson
AgNova Area Sales
Manager

Powdery mildew is the most common and widespread disease in Australian cucurbits. Powdery mildew infection occurs when spores are blown onto leaves, with symptoms appearing 3 – 7 days later. The disease infects green tissue and appears as white fluffy growth on either side of the leaf. Heavy disease infection leads to leaves becoming fragile and yellow to brown in colour. Any stresses to the crop will favour the development of powdery mildew, which includes the stress associated with fruiting. Flute and Kusabi are protectant fungicides which control powdery mildew. They perform best when applied to a clean crop and used alternately. Kusabi is ideally suited to follow Flute in a fungicide spray program from flowering until harvest (as shown in the table below). Flute and Kusabi offer strong vapour action when applied with optimal spray coverage. The performance of powdery mildew fungicides can be improved with Du-Wett, especially when lower spray volumes are used. Flute (Group U6) and Kusabi (Group 50) are compatible with a wide range of commonly used insecticides and fungicides. They offer strong vapour action when applied with optimal spray coverage and have 1 and nil day WHPs respectively, which provides great flexibility around picking time. Both products have a proven track record of successful use in crops where IPM is practiced. For further details, please visit the AgNova Technologies website - agnova.com.au

CROP STAGE						
DOMINANT DISEASE	ESTABLISHMENT	FLOWERING	FRUIT SET		FRUIT MATURITY	
Powdery mildew	Group 3, 7, (7+11), 11 or 13	Group 3, 7, (7+11), 11 or 13	Flute ⁵⁰ EW FUNGICIDE (U6)	Kusabi [®] (50)	Flute ⁵⁰ EW FUNGICIDE (U6)	Kusabi [®] (50)



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* Flute is a registered trademark of Nippon Soda Co., Ltd.
* Kusabi is a registered trademark of Ishihara Sangyo Kaisha Ltd. 240222

Surviving the Energy Crisis

It would be fair to say that all growers are currently being affected by rising energy prices which has a major impact on the business's bottom line. The team at 'Plant Empowerment' are keen to help growers to improve their profitability by sharing their knowledge in a four-part online course called 'Tips and tricks for surviving the energy crisis'. Each session focuses on how an integrated approach can reduce energy consumption, while also contributing to healthier and more resilient crops.

The Plant Empowerment specialists provide new insights relating to the benefits of the Plant Empowerment philosophy in the following four online sessions:

1. How energy affects climate and plants
2. How to reduce your energy inputs using screening and air movement
3. How to get the most out of your artificial lighting (including the e-book "How artificial lighting can optimize efficiency")
4. How reduced energy inputs affect your irrigation strategy

Registrations can be made at:-

<https://www.plantempowerment.com/product/online-course-the-energy-transition-in-high-tech-horticulture/>



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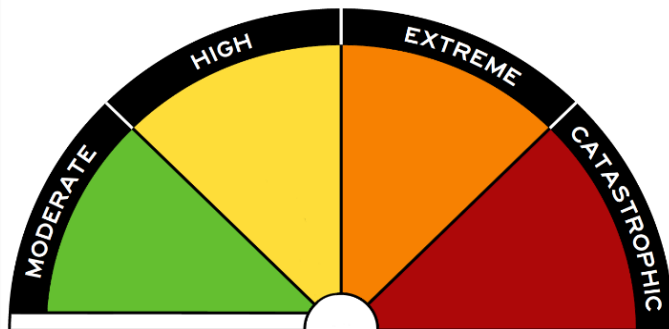
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Revised Fire Danger Ratings

The wet and particularly cool weather that we had been experiencing has probably drawn many into a false sense of security when it comes to the threat of bushfires on rural communities. However, the past couple of weeks has seen a return to what we might call more 'traditional' summer weather, and with it the return of fire activity. A new Fire Danger Rating System was introduced across Australia in 2022, so it's probably timely to refresh the memory on this new system. There are basically four levels:-



MODERATE

Plan and prepare

HIGH

Be ready to act

EXTREME

Take action now to protect life and property

CATASTROPHIC

For your survival, leave bushfire risk areas

Rating	What Does it mean?	What should I do
Moderate	Most fires can be controlled	Plan and prepare - Stay up to date and be ready to act if there is a fire
High	Fires can be dangerous	Be ready to act - There is a heightened risk. Be alert for fires in your area. Decide what you will do if a fire starts. If a fire starts, your life and property may be at risk. The safest option is to avoid bushfire risk areas.
Extreme	Fires will spread quickly and be extremely dangerous These are dangerous fire conditions. Expect hot, dry and windy conditions	Take action now to protect your life and property - Check your bushfire plan and that your property is fire ready If a fire starts, take immediate action. If you and your property are not prepared to the highest level, go to a safer location well before the fire impacts. Reconsider travel through bushfire risk areas. Leaving bushfire risk areas early in the day is your safest option.
Catastrophic	If a fire starts and takes hold, lives are likely to be lost. These are the most dangerous conditions for a fire	For your survival, leave bushfire risk areas. Your life may depend on the decisions you make, even before there is a fire. For your survival, do not be in bushfire risk areas. Stay safe by going to a safer location early in the morning or the night before. Homes cannot withstand fires in these conditions. You may not be able to leave and help may not be available.

Revised Fire Danger Ratings

Fire Danger Ratings will be issued on days when there is a fire risk, and each fire danger rating will have a clear set of messages including the actions the community can take to reduce their risk. Ratings are forecast using Bureau of Meteorology data for up to four days in advance, based on weather and other environmental conditions such as vegetation. The rating is your trigger to take action to stay safe.

However, the system also introduces an 'off' level for days where no proactive action is required by the community. This does not mean that fires cannot happen, but that they are not likely to move or act in a way that threatens the safety of the community. This rating is the thin white wedge on the colour wheel sitting under 'Moderate'.

For those on remote properties that choose to defend buildings against the threat of fire, be aware that on extreme days, support from Country Fire Authority may not be forthcoming. There are only a limited number of fire appliances within the state and they cannot be everywhere at once. So having a good fire plan and a well serviced fire fighting system are paramount. But always remember, buildings and property can be replaced, lives cannot. Stay safe everyone, and as the saying goes 'Let's be careful out there'

And while we are talking fire.....



As you may have seen in a recent edition of Hortidaily, our Secretary and three of his fire brigade colleagues are rolling up their sleeves to run in the Royal Children's Hospital - Run For The Kids event on Sunday the 19th of March. The team are repeating their previous performance from last year of completing the course in their 'Running Fire Engine'. The fire engine itself does have a vague horticultural connection - it is built out of plastic irrigation pipe - and covered in printed shade cloth, but still as an overall weight of around 30kg - so not exactly a feather! "We've always run in

the event but last year we thought we would take a different approach and run it in a Fire Engine." said Tony. Whilst the fire engine itself doesn't have a great deal of water holding capacity (that's mostly consumed by the team during the run!) It does have flashing blue lights and horns to alert unsuspecting runners on the course! Imagine the embarrassment of being run over by a fire engine on a charity run! This year's team will be made up of Tony Bundock, Karen Bundock (long suffering wife of TB!), Rob Beard and Adrian Jones. All four are volunteer firefighters with Country Fire Authority at the Narre Warren Station. Last year they made the six o'clock news on all channels so there is a high likelihood they will do the same this year. If you want to run with the team feel free, (although we can understand why you may decline this invitation) or alternatively you can help them with their \$2000 fund raising target by going to:- <https://runforthekids.gofundraise.com.au/page/NARREWARRENFIREBRIGADERUNNINGFIR>

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